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West and Central Africa Winners of Apps4Africa Announced

ABUJA - The U.S. Department of State announced the West and Central Africa winners of the Apps4Africa: Climate Challenge, in Durban, South Africa on December 7, 2011 with HospitalManager a web-based application from Nigeria winning first place. Congratulations to the winner Mr. Victor Ogo Ekwueme!

The competition is part of the U.S. Department of State's engagement with African partners to address local climate change challenges through the development of web-based and mobile applications.

HospitalManager will help hospitals in Nigeria, and potentially throughout Africa, identify patterns in patient visits following rains and floods or other natural disasters, so that staff can better prepare for these situations and save more lives. Hospitals can anticipate incoming disease and emergency patterns using real time climate forecasts. On longer time scales it will allow policy makers to plan locations of new hospitals.

Second place went to the EcoFund-Forum, a web-based application from Senegal that helps communities share successful strategies for adapting to local impacts of climate change. The third prize winner was Farmerline, a mobile and web-based app that will help farmers in rural Ghana obtain the information they need to increase yields in the face of changes in the growing season and climate variability. Winners will receive cash prizes. Private partners, including TED and Indigo Trust, are contributing follow-on support.

The winning applications were announced at the U.S. Center at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Durban. The announcement was part of an event highlighting country-driven solutions to climate change adaptation in Africa. The United States is working with partners to bring together practitioners, policy-makers, and African technology innovators to address climate change challenges through programs such as the global Adaptation Partnership and Apps4Africa.

The East Africa Apps4Africa contest concludes December 20, 2011, and winners will be announced in January 2012. The Southern Africa competition runs from February 1, 2012 through March 31, 2012, with winners announced in April.

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